

is doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results." This administration can do better. It needs to do better.

With that, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Republican leader is recognized.

#### REMEMBERING ROBERT J. DOLE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, it is hard to believe it has been 25 years since Senator Dole took leave of the Senate. It is even harder to believe he passed away this past weekend, not because it comes as a shock to say goodbye to an elder statesman at age 98 but because our colleague was still so energetic, so involved, and so forward-looking right through to his final months.

If you didn't know Bob Dole, if you just read a summary of his impressive Senate career, his leadership tenure, his Presidential campaign, he might sound like a man of contrasts.

On one hand, our friend from Kansas preached conservative values—personal responsibility and fiscal discipline—but this son of the Dust Bowl and wounded warrior was also laser-focused on caring for the most vulnerable, notching landmark wins on subjects from food insecurity to veterans' issues, to the rights of disabled Americans.

On the one hand, Senator Dole took pride in our Republican Party. He rose to key roles that were necessarily somewhat partisan, first leading our Senate Republican conference for many years and then leading a Presidential ticket. But he was also a consensus-finding legislator, an honest broker with deep friendships and working relationships that spanned the aisle.

On the one hand, our colleague was earnest, unironic, and somewhat serious—a true "greatest generation" midwesterner. But he also wielded a charming, disarming, and self-deprecating sense of humor, whether he was cracking one-liners, often at his own expense, or doing a joint appearance with his comic impersonator.

Allow me just one example of Bob Dole's comedic talent.

In January of 1997, just after President Clinton had defeated Bob and won his reelection, the President graciously bestowed on Bob the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

There they were, in mid-January, just 3 days before the day Bob had spent months hoping he would be inaugurated, but President Clinton would be inaugurated instead. It was a gracious gesture and a warm event all around.

The time comes for Bob's remarks. He walks up to the podium, looks around, and he begins:

I, Robert J. Dole—

The crowd is already cracking up.

do solemnly swear—

Then a theatrical pause.

Oh, sorry. Wrong speech.

Once the laughs began to die down, there came the self-deprecating punch line:

[I thought] I would be here this historic week receiving something from the President . . . but I thought it would be the front door key.

The thing is, there was no contradiction in any of it, no paradox. Bob's life and career were very, very consistent. The virtues and the values that led Bob Dole to raise his right hand, enlist in the Army, and fight bravely until he could not raise that hand any longer were the same virtues and values that compelled him to raise his left hand for a different oath in the Kansas State Capitol a few years later and then across the Rotunda in the U.S. House and then here in the Senate.

The same virtues and values that animated Bob's passionate, pointed speeches in the 1960s about a citizen's duty animated his great empathy toward those who needed help.

With Bob Dole, what you saw was what you got, and from his comrades in the 10th Mountain Division to his constituents in Kansas, to the whole Senate and the entire country, what we got was extraordinary.

I cannot summarize in one speech the full life or legacy of our friend Bob Dole. There are the battlefield heroics, the hospital-bed friendships with fellow future Senators Phil Hart and "the best bridge player at Percy Jones Hospital," Dan Inouye. There is the policy legacy that endures to this day. These remembrances will take Congress this whole week, and they will occupy historians for decades to come.

Bob Dole had the same chief hero for his entire adult life: his fellow son of Kansas, a general, and then a President, Dwight Eisenhower. Bob didn't just like Ike; he idolized him. In Senator Dole's Senate farewell speech in 1996, he saved the second-to-the-last quotation for his hero from Abilene, KS.

He kept his foot personally on the gas pedal for the Eisenhower Memorial here in Washington well into his nineties. He invoked and praised Ike constantly throughout his career.

One such occasion was in late 1979. An event was held at Eisenhower's boyhood home, Presidential library, and the gravesite in Abilene on what would have been his 89th birthday. It so happened that only a couple of weeks later Mrs. Eisenhower would pass away and be laid to rest there as well.

On that day, Senator Dole explained that America had gotten "lucky."

Why? Because "when we were thirsty for leadership, we turned to a man from Kansas, a genuine hero who embodied in his own life the finest qualities of the American people . . . a man from grassroots America, steeped in

the traditions of neighborhood and patriotism and service . . . a strong man who earned his strength in war yet never forgot the disease of poverty or the scourge of personal suffering."

Bob was always eloquent, and those lines of his certainly did describe Ike.

But now that our friend's 98 amazing years have come to a close, we can say with certainty that Eisenhower isn't the only Kansan who meets those standards. Not only General Eisenhower but also 2LT Robert J. Dole was a genuine hero from Kansas who helped satisfy a nation's thirst for leadership, who was steeped in homespun American values and proud of it, who fought with great courage and valor on the battlefield, and whose concern for the most vulnerable in our society came right with him into the halls of power.

I mentioned that Eisenhower was Bob's second-to-last quotation in his farewell remarks to the Senate, so I want to close today where he closed 25 years ago. Musing on both his past and his future, our colleague's final quote was from the midwestern poet Carl Sandburg:

[Y]esterday is a wind gone down, a sun dropped in the west. I tell you there is nothing in the world, only an ocean of tomorrows, a sky of tomorrows.

Now, for our remarkable friend, the Sun of this world has set at last. But we pray in faith that he now beholds an even brighter light; that the endless ocean of tomorrows now stretches before him.

The entire Senate sends our prayers to Elizabeth and Robin and to so many family, friends, and former staff of Senator Dole. The whole country stands with you, not only in grief but in gladness and thanksgiving, for almost a century that was lived so patriotically, so gratefully, and so well.

#### RUSSIA

Madam President, now on a totally different matter, last week brought new information about Russia's military activities along its border with Ukraine. Heavily armed ground forces are mobilizing by the tens of thousands. It is looking more and more like Vladimir Putin intends to redraw another border by force.

The escalation of Putin's ongoing war against Ukraine is an immediate threat to Ukraine's sovereignty and to the security of its people. But as always with Putin, it is also a test with much broader consequences. Can aggressive powers violate sovereign countries without facing serious consequence?

Fellow authoritarians in Beijing and Tehran will be watching how the free world responds. And President Biden has an opportunity to set the tone when he speaks with Putin tomorrow. The stakes for the President's call with Putin couldn't be clearer. We know what happens when the United States fails to engage with Russia from a position of strength. We know what weakness and capitulation get us.

Remember how President Obama treated arms control and European-

based missile defense as negotiable items that could be traded away in exchange for Moscow's good will. Remember how he mocked Republicans—perhaps most notably our colleague Senator ROMNEY—who dared to suggest that we ought to take the threat of Russia seriously. Remember the cuts to defense spending. Remember the dithering over whether to provide meaningful capabilities to Ukraine when Putin first invaded and how useless our blankets and MREs were against Russian armor and Moscow-trained little green men.

This weakness didn't purchase a reset; it produced a more emboldened Russia, willing to engage in more repression at home and more aggression abroad.

And here we are today. Vladimir Putin is gearing up to escalate his violation of Ukraine's sovereignty. And if the free world doesn't object, there is no reason to assume he will stop there.

So, tomorrow, President Biden has both the opportunity and the responsibility to tell Russia and Ukraine and our allies in Europe that the United States cares about sovereign borders and will help its friends protect them. If the free world is serious, its leaders—first and foremost, the President of the United States—will leave Putin no room to doubt that Ukraine's sovereignty is inviolable. And, by extension, they will signal to Chairman Xi that similar prospecting in the Pacific will come with prohibitive costs.

If our leaders do not defend a fundamental tenet of international order, we cannot be surprised by the chaos that will follow. So if President Biden is serious, he will convince Germany's new government to abandon the Nord Stream 2 Pipeline and, instead, try to reduce its dependence on resources that enrich Putin and his cronies and give Moscow leverage over Europe.

If the President intends to learn from the past and actually help Ukraine defend itself, he should expeditiously provide weapon systems that will materially help Ukraine defend itself against air threats.

Finally, for the United States to lead the world's response to authoritarian aggression, I hope President Biden will call on our allies to do more to contribute to our collective security. In Europe, NATO member states must treat their own military modernization as a top priority. And in the Indo-Pacific, our friends in Taiwan and elsewhere must commit the resources, training, and reforms needed to help them face down their own looming threats.

Tomorrow's call must mark a turning point for the Biden administration's approach to major power competition from one where words are pinned on hopes to one where its words are literally backed by strength.

**THE PRESIDING OFFICER.** The Senator from Illinois.

REMEMBERING ROBERT J. DOLE

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I learned this morning about the passing

of Senator Robert Dole. What an extraordinary person he was.

It was not my good fortune to serve with him in the U.S. Senate, but as a Member of the House of Representatives, I knew his work.

(Ms. DUCKWORTH assumed the Chair.)

I can remember when we enacted the Americans with Disabilities Act. Tom Harkin was our leader on the Democratic side. He had a member of his family who suffered a disability, and Tom was always sensitive to that. But Bob Dole's leadership on the other side, from the Republican side, made a remarkable difference because we knew that Bob Dole was not speaking about disability as some other person's experience but, frankly, his own.

I don't know what measure of courage Bob Dole showed before he served the United States in World War II, but we all knew that experience led him to a battleground injury, which he carried the rest of his life. It was amazing to me that he kept his public life so active despite the limitations that he faced. His loss of use of one arm put him in a position where he was compromised in many ways every single day. Yet he soldiered on, literally, to serve his Nation, not only in the Armed Forces but also in the U.S. Senate to pass legislation, major legislation like the Americans with Disabilities Act. It is remarkable that he lived as long as he did and faced the injuries that he did.

I would say, Madam President, you know better than most what we are speaking of with Senator Dole's contribution to his country and the battle he continued to wage the rest of his life.

I respect him so much and hope the Senate will just pause for a moment to not only reflect on him, Elizabeth Dole, and his family but also on the fact that his bipartisanship made the difference in the lives of ordinary Americans. He was willing to sit down with the party on the other side of the aisle, compromise, and be determined to get things done. Shouldn't we do the same in his honor? I think we should.

SCHOOL BOARD VIOLENCE

Madam President, it was about 2 months ago there was an uproar in the Senate Judiciary Committee. Hardly a day would pass, hardly a Republican Senator would take the committee dais and speak and not raise their mock horror and outrage over a decision by the Department of Justice under President Biden to notify school boards and school board members and teachers across the United States that we would not tolerate violence against them for their public duties.

Merrick Garland, as Attorney General, volunteered to work with State and local law enforcement to make certain that members of the school board, teachers, administrators—all of them—would be safe in the execution of their duties, and none of them should fear violence.

You wouldn't have believed the reaction from the Republican side of the dais in the Judiciary Committee. They came in and said that this is just an effort by the Biden administration to suppress free speech, to stop people who show up at school board meetings from expressing themselves. Well, we repeated over and over again it wasn't expression of speech we were worried about, it was violence and every form of it that the Department of Justice was responding to, they wouldn't hear of it. They refused to acknowledge the very real reality across the United States, and even in our State of Illinois, when it comes to violence against school board members.

The Members of this Senate share something in common. At some point in our lives, we heard the call to public service. It may have come in the form of a law we wanted to change or a passion for serving our communities back home. But for some, the greatest call to public service is to help children, the desire to do what you can, inch by inch, day by day, to leave a better world for the kids.

That is one of the reasons that Carolyn Waibel, a mother from my home State of Illinois, decided to put her name on the ballot to run in a local school board election. She wanted to serve her community and advocate for the safety and well-being of every child in St. Charles, IL, a suburb near Chicago. Sadly, Carolyn Waibel's career as a public servant was cut short. And it is not because she had any change of heart. It was because she feared for her family's safety.

Trouble began last summer. Carolyn started receiving threatening emails because of her views on mask requirements and in-person learning. At first, she brushed them off and said she would ignore them. She figured harsh feedback was just part of being a public servant. But then she started receiving messages that read: "Your days are numbered."

This mother, school board member—a non-paying job—was having her life threatened.

Then she started to receive other messages, and other events occurred. Soon enough, her personal information was spread out online, and her home became a target. Carolyn started discovering dead rodents thrown in her driveway. At one point, a trespasser cut the wires on the air-conditioning unit to her home.

Then came the final straw: Carolyn actually heard someone sneak onto her property, cut the cord to her refrigerator, and open the door to her laundry room.

Following months of harassment, Carolyn resigned from her district's school board in October. In explaining her decision to one news outlet, she said: "I had to put the safety of myself and [my] family first."

She said: Even though I have resigned, I am still receiving threats.

Carolyn is far from the only school official who has feared for her safety in